

" \* I weep for you<sup>J</sup> the Walrus said :  
<sup>s</sup> / deeply sympathise?  
 With sobs and tears he sorted out  
 Those of the largest size<sup>^</sup>  
 Holding his pocket-handkerchief  
 Before his streaming eyes. <sup>TM</sup>

Many examples of such hypocritical lamentations for animals, drawn not from the fancy of a playful writer but from the facts of savage life, could be cited.<sup>1</sup> Here I shall quote the general statement of a writer on the Indians of British Columbia, because it covers the case of vegetable as well as of animal food. After describing the respectful welcome accorded by the Stlatlum Indians to the first " sock-eye" salmon which they have caught in the season, he goes on : " The significance of these ceremonies is easy to perceive when we remember the attitude of the Indians towards nature generally, and recall their myths relating to the salmon, and their coming to their rivers and streams. Nothing that the Indian of this region eats is regarded by him as mere food and nothing more. Not a single plant, animal, or fish, or other object upon which he feeds, is looked upon in this light, or as something he has secured for himself by his own wit and skill. He regards it rather as something which has been voluntarily and compassionately placed in his hands by the goodwill and consent of the<sup>4</sup> spirit<sup>5</sup> of the object itself, or by the intercession and magic of his culture-heroes ; to be retained and used by him only upon the fulfilment of certain conditions. These conditions include respect and reverent care in the killing or plucking of the animal or plant and proper treatment of the parts he has no use for, such as the bones, blood, and offal; and the

depositing of the same in some stream  
or lake, so that the  
object may by that means renew its life  
and physical form.  
The practices in connection with the  
killing of animals and  
the gathering of plants and fruits all  
make this quite clear,  
and it is only when we bear this  
attitude of the savage  
towards nature in mind that we can  
hope to rightly under-  
stand the motives and purposes of  
many of his strange  
customs and beliefs."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> \* *Spirits of the Corn and of the Wild*, C. Hill Tout,  
"Report on the  
ii. 204 sqq. Ethnology of the Slatlum  
Indians of